



CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA LTD.

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M E M B E R S

CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION OF VICTORIA LTD.

F R O M

THE DECEMBER 1983 MEETING

O F

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

REPORT FROM DECEMBER 1983 BOARD MEETING

1. SEASONAL GREETINGS

Chairman Niel Black, Directors and Staff send best wishes for the Christmas season and for continued successful co-operative progress in 1984 to all Member Co-operatives, their Members, Directors and Staff. Coupled with these greetings come appreciation for the support by member Co-operatives of your Federation during the year to enable its further development of services to meet Co-operative needs.

2. EVALUATION OF REPORT

Your Board of Directors consider this Report as an essential part of our member relations programme in keeping with the basic Principles of Co-operation and good commonsense. However, it has been suggested that its style and presentation could be improved as a better promotional media.

To ensure the best production, within the limits of our resources of funds, staff and postage costs, and the most acceptable information medium for you as members is developed, your assistance is sought in completing and returning the questionnaire attached to this Report.

3. NEW MEMBERS

At the December meeting of the Board the following were allotted shares and welcomed into membership of the Federation:

Apollo Bay Fishermen's Co-operative Society Ltd.

Associated Herd Improvement Co-operative Ltd.

The Federation of Housing Societies of Victoria

4. TRADING CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

The Board resolved to accept the invitation of the Victorian Trading Co-operative Association to accept the transfer to the Federation office of the registered office of that Association and the Federation's Executive Officer to be appointed Secretary vice Mr. E. J. Long of Y.C.W. Co-operative Ltd.

5. CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

i. Directors

All Member Co-operatives and Directors should have received the brochure setting out details of the Director Training Seminar to be held in Melbourne on March 14 and 15, 1984. Numbers will be limited so early application is recommended.

ii. Executives of Trading Co-operatives

The proposed programme to be developed in conjunction with the Co-operative Federation of New South Wales, planned to be held in Albury in March 1984 has been deferred by the

New South Wales Federation.

6. CENTRALISED BANKING

Your Board considered current developments towards achievement of this objective. Three alternative studies are in hand to enable a firm policy to be resolved for promotion and eventual implementation in the best interests of members.

7. BULK FUEL PURCHASING

The result of discussions held with the major oil companies were considered by the Board at its December meeting and further studies of the proposal were directed.

8. PROMOTION OF THE FEDERATION

The Board noted that of 63 Co-operatives in membership of the unincorporated Federation, 50 had applied for and been allotted shares in membership of the incorporated Co-operative Federation of Victoria. The Board resolved that the attached promotional leaflet be issued to all 68 Producer Co-operatives, 107 Trading Co-operatives, 29 Community Settlement Co-operatives and 1027 Community Advancement Co-operatives registered in Victoria.

9. EMPLOYMENT CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

One Federation Director, Ron Harper, of Hodja Educational Resources Co-operative (a Co-operative funded under the Programme) and the Executive Officer continue as members of the Funding Committee for the Programme.

Another Federation Director, Maurice Seviar of Victorian Credit Co-operative Association, serves as a member of the Programme's Education Committee.

The Ministry of Employment and Training, in conjunction with the Small Business Department, Preston College of T.A.F.E., has developed a 3-phase support service for Employment Co-operatives.

Phase One, concerned with "introducing Co-operatives", is a programme of 18 hours duration for intenders thinking about starting a Co-operative.

Phase Two, is a Workshop type exercise of 78 hours duration to facilitate new Co-operative ventures by providing an action learning format for the development of Business Plans.

Phase Three, is an advisory service from Preston College to help develop a viable commercial activity guided by Co-operative philosophy and democratic workplace practice.

10. COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT CO-OPERATIVE

The Annual Report of Community Work Society Co-operative Ltd. of Hawthorn - operating without any funding assistance from Government - was tabled at the December Board meeting. During the year full-time employment was provided by that Co-operative for four people and part-time employment for 13 people was provided. Plans to provide employment for a further six people have been developed since the end of the year. During the year a trading profit was made and previous years' losses were paid off.

11. CO-OPERATIVES IN T.A.F.E. COLLEGES

A report from the Research Committee set up with funds from the School to Work Transition Programme to develop pilot Co-operative and Teachers' Guide Book for Staff of T.A.F.E. Colleges by November 1983 was received by the Board. Whilst much progress has been made towards achievement of the objective, the project was incomplete by the target date and will be extended into 1984.

12. TAKEOVER BIDS FOR AMALGAMATED CO-OPERATIVE MARKETERS (ACMAL)

The Board expressed its concern at the December meeting on the current adverse publicity created by the public debated division within the Co-operative Dairy Industry in support of offers and counter-offers by Co-operatives in the dairying industry for their own marketing organisation. The Federation Chairman was directed to write to each dairy Co-operative chairman indicating the prejudicial effect on the whole image and future for Co-operatives in Victoria of such publicity.

13. CHANGES AT THE REGISTRY OF CO-OPERATIVES

Members present at the 1983 Annual Conference of the Federation had the opportunity to learn at first hand from the new Registrar of Co-operative Societies of the new approach to the responsibility of administration of such Co-operatives. As further evidence of this new approach is the recent announcement of the creation of four new senior appointments within the Registry. They are:

Deputy Registrar	-	Housing Co-operatives
Deputy Registrar	-	Credit Co-operatives
Deputy Registrar	-	All other types of Co-operatives
Manager	-	Co-operative Research and Policy